

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4755

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1198

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EIND
SUBJECT: GDR SIGNS BAUXITE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH GUYANA

1. ON MAY 25 GOG AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SIGNED A TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BAUXITE MINING IN GUYANA. AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED DURING THREE DAY GDR TRADE TEAM VISIT LED BY DR. SCHWIERS, GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER AND DR. WERNER HAENOLD, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT UNDER AGREEMENT, GDR WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TOTALING US\$20 MILLION.

2. FEW OTHER DETAILS OF AGREEMENT WERE DISCLOSED IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 26. THEY ARE TO BE WORKED OUT AT MEETING OF JOINT GUYANA-GDR COMMISSION SCHEDULED FOR JULY IN BERLIN. COMMISSION WILL REPORTEDLY DISCUSS FURTHER ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION AT THAT TIME. SCHWIERS DID POINT OUT THAT AGREEMENT WAS LONG TERM AND WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF EVERY ASPECT OF GUYANA'S BAUXITE INDUSTRY.

3. THE FOUR MAN GDR TRADE TEAM, ASSORDING TO PRESS, ALSO
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DISCUSSED OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST DURING VISIT. NONE WAS IDENTIFIED, HOWEVER, SAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF GDR ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICING AND REPAIR OF TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT GDR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO GUYANA.

4. GOG SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 2 PLANS TO

RESTRUCTURE THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. (THIS HAS NO APPARENT RELATION TO FUTURE GDR ASSISTANCE). AS APPROVED BY CABINET ON MAY 31, THE TWO STATE COMPANIES, GUYBAU AND BERMINE ARE BEING MERGED INTO A SINGLE COMPANY TO BE KNOWN AS GUYANA MINING ENTERPRISE (GUYMINE). GUYMINE WILL OPERATE UNDER THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED BAUXITE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (BIDCO) WHICH HAS SO FAR SERVED AS THE HOLDING COMPANY FOR BOTH BAUXITE CONCERNS.

5. ACCORDING TO A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WHO TALKED WITH HAENOLD, DISCUSSIONS ALSO CENTERED ON GOG REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE PAYMENTS DUE TO GDR FOR PURCHASE OF TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. GOG REPORTEDLY RAISED WITH GDR POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE FOR UPPER-MAZARUNI HYDRO POWER PROJECT, BUT GDR IS CONCERNED ABOUT STATUS OF UPPER-MAZARUNI TERRITORY WHICH IS DISPUTED BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND GUYANA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, FOLLOWING VISIT HERE GDR TEAM TRAVELED TO VENEZUELA TO OBTAIN VENEZUELAN VIEWS ON STATUS OF TERRITORY.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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